

Why Lincoln Was a Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln, the Law & Civic Education

Elementary School Unit Introduction **Grades 3–5**

These lessons are designed to offer classroom presenters an array of activities, all of which are planned to teach to the theme, “Why Lincoln Was a Lawyer: Abraham Lincoln, the Law & Civic Education.” The classroom presenter may choose those activities that they feel are best suited to their students’ needs.

Lesson 1. Civic Duty: What Does It Take to Be a Good Citizen?

Students will decide what it takes to be a good citizen. The rights and responsibilities of citizenship will also be examined. Finally, Abraham Lincoln’s life will be compared to the exemplar of good citizenship and explored for instances in which he showed good citizenship.

Vocabulary: *citizen, citizenship, rights, responsibilities*

Lesson 2. Rule of Law: How Does the Constitution Protect Our Rights in Court?

Students will review citizenship. Using copies of the Bill of Rights, students will cite text that discusses trials, lawyers, juries, and the law. Abraham Lincoln’s role as lawyer will be reviewed and discussed.

Vocabulary: *law, counsel, trial, jury*

Lesson 3. Civic Duty: Who Can Vote and for Whom Do We Vote?

Students will brainstorm ideas about voting in the United States. The story of Abraham Lincoln and his beard will be read and the issues related to voting will be discussed. Finally, students will review constitutional amendments related to voting and discuss voting issues.

Vocabulary: *vote, suffrage, candidate*

Indiana Core Standards – Grades 3, 4, 5 **(More detailed standards found on page 18)**

- History: Chronology, Analysis, and Interpretation
- Indiana Government: Foundations and Functions of Indiana Government
- Civics and Government: Foundations of U.S. Government
- Civics and Government: Structure and Function
- Civics and Government: Foundations of Democratic Government